

Amendments to the Claims:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 canceled.

Claim 2 canceled.

Claim 3 canceled.

Claim 4 canceled.

Claim 5 canceled.

Claim 6 canceled.

Claim 7 canceled.

Claim 8 canceled.

Claim 9 canceled.

10. **(Currently Amended).** An air diffusing vacuum transport assembly comprising:

(a) a vacuum plenum assembly including a vacuum chamber;

(b) belt support means for supporting a moveable continuous belt around said vacuum plenum assembly, said belt support means including a heat pipe, and said heat pipe comprising a roller including a sealed heat conductive fluid; and

(c) an air diffusing vacuum transport belt mounted around said vacuum plenum assembly for supporting and transporting a substrate over said vacuum plenum assembly, said air diffusing vacuum transport belt including:

(i) a first perforated layer for mounting over said vacuum plenum assembly, said first perforated layer including a top surface and a bottom surface, solid areas, and perforated hole areas interspersing said solid areas for directing pressurized airflow from said top surface through to said bottom surface; and

(ii) a second non-perforated layer formed over said top surface of said first perforated layer and covering said solid areas and said perforated hole areas, said second non-perforated layer having an inner surface positioned over said top surface of said first perforated layer, and an outer surface for uniformly supporting substrates, and said second non-perforated layer ~~being made of a selected electrically non-conductive material having a density that is less than a density of said first layer, and~~ being porous to air for diffusing pressurized airflow from said outer surface thereof into said perforated hole areas of said first perforated layer, thereby enabling transporting of image carrying substrates without vacuum belt induced image defects.

11. **(Previously presented).** The air diffusing vacuum transport assembly of claim 10, wherein said vacuum plenum assembly includes a top plate having airflow apertures located below said air diffusing vacuum transport belt.

Claim 12 canceled.

Claim 13 canceled.

Claim 14 canceled.

Claim 15 canceled.

16. **(Currently Amended).** The air diffusing vacuum transport assembly of claim 4410, wherein said heat pipe includes cooling fins for dissipating heat from said heat pipe.

17. **(Currently amended).** An image producing machine comprising:

(a) a belt module including a belt support means for supporting a moveable continuous belt around a vacuum plenum assembly, said belt support means including a heat pipe, and said heat pipe comprising a roller including a sealed heat conductive fluid;

(b) sheet feeders for supplying and moving an image receiving sheet through said belt module;

(c) imaging means including toner for forming an image on said image receiving sheet; and

(d) an air diffusing vacuum transport assembly for transporting said image receiving sheet within said belt module, said air diffusing vacuum transport assembly including an air diffusing vacuum transport belt for supporting and transporting a sheet, said air diffusing vacuum transport belt including:

(i) a first perforated layer for mounting over a vacuum plenum, said first perforated layer including a top surface and a bottom surface, solid areas, and perforated hole areas interspersing said solid areas for directing pressurized airflow from said top surface through to said bottom surface; and

(ii) a second non-perforated layer formed over said top surface of said first perforated layer and covering said solid areas and said perforated hole areas, said second non-perforated layer having an inner surface positioned over said top surface of said first perforated layer, and an outer surface for uniformly supporting sheets and said second non-perforated layer being made of a selected electrically non-conductive material having a density that is less than a density of said first layer, and being porous to air for diffusing pressurized airflow from said outer surface thereof into said perforated hole areas of said first perforated layer, thereby enabling transporting of image carrying sheets without vacuum belt induced image defects.

Claim 18 canceled.

Claim 19 canceled.

20. **(Previously presented).** The image producing machine of claim 17, wherein said heat pipe includes cooling fins for dissipating heat from said heat pipe.

21. **(New).** The air diffusing vacuum transport assembly air diffusing vacuum transport belt of claim 10, wherein said first perforated layer is made of an elastomeric material.

22. **(New).** The air diffusing vacuum transport assembly of claim 10, wherein said vacuum plenum assembly includes a fan for moving air from said outer surface of said non-perforated second layer into said vacuum chamber.

23. **(New).** The air diffusing vacuum transport assembly of claim 10, including tracking rollers for maintaining tracking of said air diffusing vacuum transport belt on said frame.

24. **(New).** The air diffusing vacuum transport assembly of claim 10, wherein said second non-perforated layer of said air diffusing vacuum transport belt is laminated onto said top surface of said first perforated layer.

25. **(New).** The air diffusing vacuum transport assembly of claim 10, wherein said second non-perforated layer of said air diffusing vacuum transport belt is made of a selected material having a density significantly less than a density of said first perforated layer.

26. **(New).** The air diffusing vacuum transport assembly of claim 10, wherein said outer surface of said second non-perforated layer of said air diffusing vacuum transport belt is smooth for providing a uniform support surface for a back side of an image carrying sheet.

27. **(New).** The air diffusing vacuum transport assembly of claim 10, wherein said second non-perforated layer of said air diffusing vacuum transport belt is made of a woven fabric material.

28. **(New).** The air diffusing vacuum transport assembly of claim 25, wherein said selected material is electrically non-conductive.

29. **(New).** The air diffusing vacuum transport assembly of claim 25, wherein said selected material, relative to said first perforated layer, is less thermally conductive.

30. **(New).** The air diffusing vacuum transport assembly of claim 25, wherein said selected material is felt.